

40 Years



**New Jersey  
Meadowlands  
Commission**

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# **NJMC NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NJMC Launches Greenhouse Gas Study**

*Latest Step in Agency's Fight Against Global Warming*

**LYNDHURST, N.J.** –The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) will begin measuring the capability of urban wetlands to capture and contain a harmful greenhouse gas this week, a study that could lead to marsh enhancements designed to further cut emissions that contribute to global warming. Commission scientists will gather this carbon sequestration data in the Meadowlands District over the next six months.

“The carbon sequestration study is another example of the NJMC’s aggressive approach to fighting global warming, and its commitment to making the region an even better place to live,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “By reducing the amount of carbon dioxide that enters the atmosphere, we can better control global warming and the flooding and other problems that can result.”

The study is being conducted by the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), the scientific and technological arm of the NJMC. Scientists this week installed two instruments that measure wind speed and the amounts of carbon dioxide emitted and captured by plants in wetlands sites in Carlstadt.

By tracking carbon dioxide concentration in the air, wind speed and wind direction, scientists can determine the amount of the compound and its movement through the air. The measurements are being taken near the two most abundant plant species in the marshes: the salt marsh cordgrass, known as spartina, and the invasive common reed, Phragmites. The instruments will be moved between spartina and Phragmites patches throughout the District twice monthly.

“This study will provide important data about the potentially far-reaching power of urban wetlands to keep greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “Through research like this and our renewable and alternative energy initiatives, the NJMC continues to be in the forefront of the fight against global warming in the Meadowlands.”

The NJMC continuously strives to make its own operations more energy-efficient and reduce its carbon footprint. The Commission has pursued several initiatives to cut energy consumption at its headquarters and plans to install a series of solar farms on its landfills. The Commission also helps local businesses and towns to

be more energy-efficient by offering financial incentives and planning assistance for everything from a renewed emphasis on recycling to the purchase of hybrid vehicles to an investment in solar energy.

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